



**Commission on Child Care
Meeting Summary-*Approved*
March 20, 2019**

Members Present: Lindsey Allard-Agnamba, Dr. Barbara Andrews, Michelle Belski, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, L'Ornya Bowie, Hashan Chowdhury, William Hegwood, Yvonne Iscandari, Jess Kelley, Sybil Philip, William Polman, Keneisha Roberts, Laura Seminario-Thornton and Verna Washington

Members Absent: Pamela Dunn, Carl Eggleston, Ed Krauze, Greg Smith, Greg Stevens

Guests Present: JoAnn Barnes (Chief, Children, Youth and Families), Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez (Montgomery College), Monica Ortiz (ECE Policy Officer) and Walton Harris (Councilmember Jawando's Office)

Staff Present: Erin Stillwell (DHHS) and Sarah Wilch-Spamer (DHHS)

Meeting Called to Order: Michelle Belski, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Commission Business

- **Build Slate for April Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
 - Current Nominations: Michelle Belski, Chair
 - Commissioner can continue to send nominations to Erin prior to the April 24th meeting
- **Annual Planning Retreat: Tentative Plans**
 - Date: May 15, 2019
 - Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (working dinner)
 - Location: MCCA Office, Rockville
 - Tentative Agenda: Accomplishments, Priorities and Recommendations
- **Feedback from CCC's Meeting with Councilmember Alborno**

- Commissioners Michelle Belski and Laura Seminario-Thornton and HHS staff (Erin Stillwell) met with Councilmember Alborno and senior legislative assistant, Beth Shuman, on March 20th
- Discussed ECE Initiative, public space rebid process, and lack of adequate affordable child care in Montgomery County
- Councilmember Alborno recommended that CCC show No Small Matter movie in lobby of COB and use this as an opportunity for public awareness around issues involving early care and education
- **Discussion on County's FY20 Budget and Early Care and Education Initiative** (overview provided by JoAnn Barnes)
- ECE Initiative was a fast-paced initiative; stemmed from Council President Navarro's desire for a 4 year initiative
- Looking at the First Year (first 100 days of administration); first year begins March 1, 2019 and ends February 2020 (planning for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year will happen during the first year)
- Workgroups will be led by Bibi Otero from CE's Office
- **Budget:** Reduction of 3.2 million dollars; reduction came out of WPA budget due to changes made with the State scholarship programs
- 7 million dollars (for first year)
- Net increase to Early Care 3.8 Million
- Money has been moved into a non-departmental account to be spent on Early Care and Education. Possible examples of spending:
 - Looking to spend this funding on targeted groups (ex. Subsidizing child care for a child who is in Head Start)
 - Support Early Child Care Centers via MCPS
 - Additional funds for Early Childhood Mental Health
 - Additional funds for Child Care in Public Space
 - Looking at raising the rates of WPA
 - Looking at ways to retain currently licensed providers
- **Concerns of the CCC:**
 - These funds are not specifically earmarked for WPA; families need additional funds (beyond what is provided by the State Scholarship program) to afford quality child care
 - Concerns about expanding the number of seats by recruiting new providers; but current already established centers and family child care centers have open slots, but families cannot afford the care

Updates:

- **CUPF (Bill Polman):**
 - Working with MCPS and CE to look at new rebid process protocol

- Bill is working on a benchmark study to look at programs (if you are aware of an outstanding program model, please share with Bill)
- **ECCC (Michelle Belski & Rosalba Bonilla Acosta):**
 - Today's meeting was focused on budget discussion
 - Barbara also presented the Regional Network Stakeholder Engagement
- **State Updates (Monica Ortiz):**
 - Ready by 5 Town Hall (Monica will send invitation)
 - May 17th (am session and pm session)
 - Free, but must register
- **WPA/State Scholarship Program (Yvonne Iscandari):**
 - WPA current caseload is 43 families/67 children
 - OESS is currently waiting for the report from the State regarding supplements for children 0-8

Number of Families referred to the State	514
Number of Children referred to the State	762
Number of Families approved by State	328
Number of Children approved by State	460
Number of supplements issued for families who have transferred to the State	224
Number of supplements issued to children who have transferred to the State	299

Meeting Summary: Review and Approval of February 27, 2019 Meeting Summaries

ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting summary from February 27, 2019 as distributed

Motion by: Lindsey Allard Agnamba

Seconded by: L'Ornya Bowie

All in Favor

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.